

**CHURCH RE-OPENING PLAN, PHASE TWO**

Beloved church family,

I know I speak for all the elders when I say we love YOU and are happy that YOU are a part of the Fellowship Church family.

The elder team met again last night to spend some time in prayer for our church family and to prayerfully consider a new phase to our re-opening plan. We have been very happy with how our church family has been patient with one another and pursued unity in this time. We've had two services where we've generally demonstrated our love and care for one another by changing things up a bit to limit risk of the spread of COVID-19. Thank you church for your cooperation.

We also want to thank you for your feedback last week. We are an elder-led congregational church. That means, among many other things, that every church member makes up what really and truly is Fellowship Church. We really value your input as we lead in ways that affect us all. And your input has confirmed the way we sense that the Holy Spirit is leading us.

The elder team decided to make the following changes, ***effective July 5:***

- In an effort to enable everyone who would like to attend a corporate worship service EACH week while still honoring the 50% occupancy guideline and allow for adequate social distancing, we will offer TWO worship services! One service will begin at 9:00 am and the other at 10:45 am.
- The 9:00 am will have identical restrictions to what we've already established. Our survey indicated that 23% are planning to attend over the summer AND believe masks should still be required. We believe this will help those of us who want to worship corporately and are comfortable with those restrictions to continue to do so.
- Our survey also indicated that 45% are planning to attend this summer AND believe that masks should not be required. In light of that feedback, there will be one change to the 10:45 am service. While we will still recommend that individuals follow CDC guidelines, we will not be requiring the use of masks. We encourage everyone to educate themselves, consider the risk and choose the service that they desire.

Our Livestream will still be a great option for many in our congregation who are sick in any way, shape, or form or are in a vulnerable group. If you are in this group and have a need, please contact us. We want to be the church family God has called us to be for YOU in this season.



### **Anticipated Questions:**

- *Can higher risk persons attend?* While we **require** anybody who is sick to stay home, we would ask that higher risk persons consider their risk and come if they so desire. The CDC describes higher risk individuals as those who: are 65 years and older, live in a care facility or nursing home, have chronic lung issues or asthma, have serious heart conditions, are immunocompromised, have diabetes, have chronic liver kidney disease, have liver disease, or are severely obese (BMI over 40).
- *How long will we be meeting in two services like this?* We will continue to monitor the recommendations and guidelines that the state is giving churches and will make adjustments as needed. We long for the day that we can all be together physically as one gathered body. But we really don't know when that will possible.
- *How can we help?* Based on our survey, we expect a smaller number of people in the 9:00 am service. If you are trying to decide between the two, please consider attending the 9:00 am service.
- *How can we educate ourselves about COVID-19?* Visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html> for information on the disease and how to protect yourself and others from the spread.

With great hope in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior,

Todd Pellowe  
Executive Pastor, Fellowship Church